Son Lauds Khrushchev at Rites

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
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MOSCOW, Sept. 13—Nikita S. Khrushchev was buried today in a simple ceremony from which the Soviet leaders were absent but which was marked by a statement of homage from his son.

Sergei N. Khrushchev, choking back tears, spoke as he stood in the heavy rain on a mound of earth beside the open grave.

Of his father, who died at age 77, he said: "I will not speak about him as a great statesman. On that subject a great deal was said in the last few days, with rare exceptions, by newspapers of the entire world, by all radio stations." He added that it was not up to him but to history to appraise his father's contributions.

Few Were 'Indifferent'

"The only thing I can say," the 36-year-old enngineer went on, "is that he left few people indifferent to him. There were those who loved him, there were those who loved him, there were those who hated him, but there were few who would pass by without looking in his direction.

"We have lost someone who had every right to be called a man," he said. Unfortunately, there are not many real people like him.

Friends of the Khrushchev family interpreted that remark as a criticism of the current leaders, who did not honor even in death the man who dominated Soviet political life for 11 years. Since they ousted him as party leader and Premier in October, 1964, he was forced to iive in isolation and his name was rarely mentioned.

Aside from a one-sentence announcement in the newspapers today, two after Mr. Khrushchev died of a heart attack, the Soviet leaders have paid virtually no attention to the passing of a man whose efforts to expose Stalin's crimes and to live at peace with the Western world gained him worldwide popularity.

He was denied a state funeral in Red Square — it has been given to much lesser figures—and no official attended; the only gesture was a wreath in the name of the Central Committee and the Government.

The funeral, in a small corner at the back of the 400-year emotion among them, reflecting a general attitude of indifference.

If any one had wanted to attend the funeral, he would have been blocked by some thousand soldiers and policemen, augmented by security agents, who admitted only those with special passes. However, at the wish of the family, which seemed moved by the attention, foreign newsmen were admitted.

The family and friends gathered this morning at a small building at the Kremlin Hospital in the outskirts of Moscow. The building, which looks something like a chapel but in this atheistic country is called The Hall of Farewell, contained Mr. Khrushchev's embalmed body lying on a flowers-covered bier. His 26 military and state decorations were pinned to a velvet cloth.

For about 40 minutes his wife Nina, a black veil over her old Novodevichye Monastery's cemetery, was not announced, but some 300 people stood on nearby streets. There was little face, stood silently by with Sergei and her three daughters, Yulia, Rada and Yelena.

Aleksei S. Adzhubei, husband of Rada and chief editor of Izvestia while Mr. Khrushchev was in power, walked outside the building, occasionally going inside, where funeral music filled the small room. The poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, who had strongly supported Mr. Khrushchev's anti-Stalin policy but who had often run afoul of him, paid his respects.

A hearse, a bus with a painted black border and a door at the rear, received the coffin, and the family joined it in the bus for the 30-minute ride to the cemetery, some three miles from the Kremlin.

The ceremonial began with a six-piece band playing Chopin's Funeral March. The rains grew heavier. Flowers were added to the bier, over which an umbrella was held, and family and friends paid last respects. Occasionally a member of the family would lean over and kiss Mr. Khrushchev on the forehead.

Dissident Is Kept Away

Sergei Khrushchev, without a ranicoat or umbrella, walked to the gravesite and spoke slowly and precisely. Then he introduced an old revolutionary, Nadezha Dimanshtein, who is from the Donets Basin, where Mr. Khrushchev started his career some 50 years ago.

"We remember Nikita Sergeyevich as an unbending proletarian," she said, "one who was to us, the younger people, an example of fortitude, of heroism, an example of unbending will, of unbending passion in defense of the party line."

A tribute was also paid by Vadim Vasilyev, a young man whose father and grandfather were executed in the Stalin years.

Another who is the son of a victim of Stalin's repression was detained by the police and prevented from attending the funeral on the ground that he would commit an "antisocial" act. Pyotr I. Yakir, whose father, Gen. Iona E. Yakir, was executed in 1937, is a leading dissident who was a friend of the Khrushchev family.

After the coffin was lowered int othe grave and had been covered with earth, Mrs. Khrushchev put a red rose on the ground and burst into tears.

Then hundreds of flowers of all varieties were added and four large wreaths crowned the grave—one from the family, one from "a group of comrades," the one from the Central Committee and Government, and one from Anastas I. Mikoyan, a former Kremlin colleague of Mr. Krushchev's.

Mr. Mikoyan's son Sergo, a specialist on Latin America, attended the funeral.

Finally, Mr. Khrushchev's formal photographic portrait, which once hung in all Soviet

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SOVIET LEADER'S TOMBSTONE: Marker in Novodevichye Monastery Cemetery bears simply the name Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeyevitch, and dates of his birth and death.

instituions, was placed on the grave near a simple marble headstone that reads "Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeyevich, 17. IV. 1984—1971. 11. IX." It was the first time his picture had been seen in public in nearly seven years.